

Real Estate and Open Space Committee

Meeting Minutes June 19, 2015

8:35 Called Meeting to Order by Kathy Green

Members present: Kathy Green, David Callahan, Elaine Shovlin, Marcia Thorngate-Smith, Bob Thomas

Guests Present: David Spitz, Town of Harwich, Michael Lach, Harwich Conservation Trust

Kathy first re-introduced and welcomed new member, Marcia Thorngate-Smith

OLD BUSINESS:

David Spitz led discussion on the re-write of the Harwich Open Space & Real Estate Plan. David reviewed the results of a survey sent out relative to this. Committee discussed various thoughts and results of survey. Committee seems to feel the section that refers most to REOS is appropriate as is.

Kathy Green brought up the town (using David Spitz map) properties that perhaps could be disposed of. She also read a note from HCT suggesting that the BOS might like to see the Bank Street (Old Fire Station) be disposed of. Kathy also suggested we get a more detailed picture and/or description of the parcels noted on the map.

Mike Lach suggested we “consider” that of the parcels be transferred from “under the control of BOS” to “care custody and control under conservation commission to protect. Kathy agreed to better identify these parcels and include pictures and to visit these sites.

Dave Callaghan brought the committee up to date on properties we had inquiries on from the other town committees we reached out to for input from same. These included inquiries from Cemetery commission and Community Center Committee. Bob Thomas will notify Carol at Community center that the vacant building abutting community center is in fact not abandoned but privately owned and being taxed and to our knowledge not available to the town.

Kathy Green reported that she sent to BOS earlier in June a letter with our REOS 3 current priorities for unknown owner properties.

Kathy wanted to discuss Hawksnest property situation that came up at town meeting and was defeated as a water recharge area. "Should REOS have done more"? The consensus of the committee was no; REOS was never formally brought into the issue.

Bob Thomas reported on a discussion with past chairman of BOS, Larry Ballantine relative to the middle school repurpose committee and the why as to REOS was not included/involved. Since the whole situation is on hold and it appears another new committee may need to be formed it was suggested that REOS wait to see what BOS wants to do with the entire issue before any further discussion within our committee.

Bob Thomas and Mike Lach brought up the subject of completion of the Suthpin property which is still on extension. Mike will contact appropriate parties to establish status and REOS perhaps to write a letter to BOS suggesting another extension.

With no other business to address, motion made by David Callahan to adjourn, seconded by Elaine Shovlin.